



State Senator Tupac A. Hunter

*Serving the 5th District Constituents in
Detroit, Dearborn Heights & Inkster*

Hunter Budget Update Report



How to Contact Me

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Tupac A. Hunter**

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MICHIGAN STATE SENATE
TUPAC A. HUNTER
STATE SENATOR • 5TH DISTRICT

Dear Friend,

This newsletter is intended to provide you with an up-to-date report on the state's budget, especially as it relates to the funding priorities that I continue to advocate on behalf of the citizens of northwest Detroit, Dearborn Heights, and Inkster. My colleagues and I have tackled the state budget in a constructive and cooperative manner to ensure that we didn't repeat last year's debacle. We have negotiated and passed the vast majority of the state budget, covering funding for community health, education, and public safety services.

Throughout the budget process, I fought for crucial funding for the various programs and services that will ensure the growth of our communities and support the hardworking citizens who live there. The comprehensive plan that was developed last fall which incorporated cuts and key government reforms continues to be the most effective approach in taking on the hard economic times we face in today's society. I will continue to fight for essential services and make the necessary cuts in government in order to pass a balanced budget.

I pledge to continue working diligently with my colleagues and the administration to keep you and your families safe, healthy and secure in these difficult economic times. As always, please feel free to contact my Lansing office at 1-866-262-7305 with any questions or concerns that you may have.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

State Senator
Tupac A. Hunter

Capital Outlay Brings New Jobs With Airport and Campus Improvements

In order to meet federal requirements for funding airport projects, the Capital Outlay budget was split into separate legislation for airports and colleges. Senator Hunter fought alongside his Senate colleagues to pass the funding to approve construction projects for airport improvements across the state. The State is spending \$5.1 million to leverage \$163 million in federal funds.

Among the airport projects approved in Michigan are the expansion of Detroit City Airport, reconstruction at Detroit Metropolitan-Wayne County Airport, and numerous expansions and improvements to Willow Run Airport.



In addition to the airport renovations, Senate Democrats have been pushing to pass the \$275.2 million in proposed funding for university and community college projects, including two schools in Metro Detroit. If funding is approved for these construction projects, \$7.5 million will be awarded to Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn to renovate their science building, and Wayne County Community College will receive \$21 million for construction on their new Northwest Campus located at Outer Drive and Southfield Freeway.

This funding is a great way to improve colleges and universities in Michigan while also creating new construction jobs. In addition to creating jobs now for Michigan’s workers, the plan also will create new jobs in emerging fields by investing in higher education and high-growth, high-tech sectors of the economy like life sciences, homeland security, and other innovative fields.

Senator Tupac A. Hunter watches as Governor Granholm signs his Senate Bill 1190 into law.

DLEG Budget Funds Worker Programs

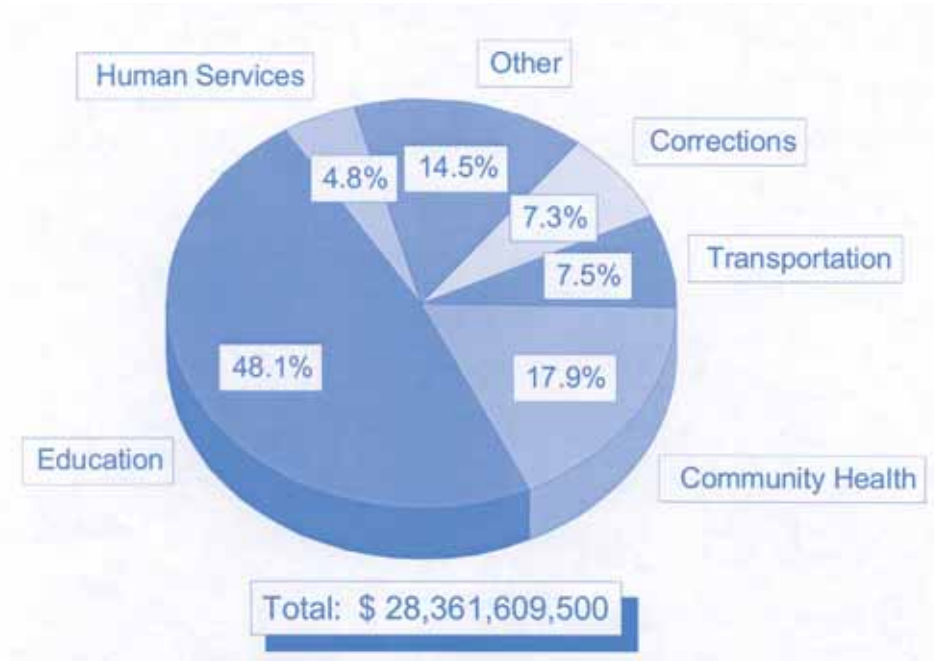
The Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) budget will see an increase of \$76 million in 2008-2009. This includes \$15 million in state funds and \$50 million in federal funds for the No Worker Left Behind job training program. The No Worker Left Behind program expansion is especially critical to our state. Currently, some 22,000 displaced workers have enrolled in programs providing them with new skills and training, but lengthy waiting lists still exist. Meanwhile, skilled positions go unfilled. The approved increases will provide the resources to address the backlog and further expand the program.

Michigan is currently expecting a shortage of 7,000 registered nurses by 2010 and an even larger shortage of 18,000 RNs come 2015. A \$3.5 million increase to the Michigan Nursing Corps program funding, bringing the total to \$5 million for 2009, will provide additional nursing faculty which will help increase the supply of RNs and ultimately address Michigan’s current nursing shortage. These efforts will not only create faculty jobs, but will improve overall health care availability in Michigan. With thousands of RN job openings in Wayne County alone, Senator Hunter will continue to work with his colleagues to fund this program and fill those positions.

The DLEG budget also includes funding for additional staffing in the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation to protect consumers by strengthening regulation of activities related to mortgage lending, payday lending, securities, banking and credit unions, and insurance. Increases in the Housing and Community Development Fund will promote investments in downtowns and neighborhoods to provide more affordable housing.

All of these programs contribute to Senator Hunter’s goals of creating jobs, protecting consumers, and providing affordable housing for Michigan families.

State Spending from State Resources FY 2007-08 Year-To-Date Appropriations



Source: Senate Fiscal Agency

Senate Takes Action on School Aid Budget, Secures Funding for Local Schools

On July 17, Senator Hunter and his colleagues in the State Senate voted to pass the School Aid budget with an increase in per pupil funding to K-12 schools. The agreed upon increase in per pupil funding will be between \$56 and \$112 on a sliding scale based on existing funding, ensuring lower-funded schools receive the greatest increase.

The amounts are based on the number of pupils in each school, and what was being spent locally before the passage of Proposal A, a sweeping reform of school financing that was adopted in 1994. The school aid fund’s major revenue sources are sales and income taxes.

Additional highlights of the School Aid budget include \$10 million for Early Childhood programs, including \$5 million for the Early Childhood Investment Corporation and a \$5 million increase for school readiness programs, as well as a \$1 million increase for Child and Adolescent Health Centers.

School District	FY 2008 Per Pupil Foundation	FY 2009 Per Pupil Foundation	Per Pupil Foundation Increase, \$56 to \$112
Detroit Public Schools	\$7,557	\$7,660	\$103
Dearborn City School District	\$9,027	\$9,083	\$56
Dearborn Heights School District #7	\$7,204	\$7,316	\$112
Inkster Public Schools	\$7,952	\$8,044	\$92
Wayne-Westland Community School District	\$7,863	\$7,957	\$94
Crestwood School District	\$7,716	\$7,814	\$98
Westwood Community Schools	\$8,190	\$8,275	\$85
Academy of Inkster	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
Michigan Health Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
Michigan Technical Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
Nataki Talibah Schoolhouse of Detroit	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
Old Redford Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
Star International Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
Thomas Gist Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
Universal Learning Center	\$7,204	\$7,316	\$112
Warrendale Charter Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
West Village Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
Weston Technical Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105
YMCA Service Learning Academy	\$7,475	\$7,580	\$105

Youthville Detroit Among Programs Funded by Human Services Budget

The Department of Human Services (DHS) budget funded 83 new positions in the licensing, foster care and adoption monitoring, and Child Protective Services areas. Monthly increases in the Family Independence Program and raises in the state’s children’s clothing allowance were accomplished through federal funding.

Michigan Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly (MiCAFE) saw a \$30,000 increase in funding that will help senior citizens with their monthly food bills so they can still

afford necessities like utility payments and medications.

Youthville Detroit, a signature project of the Detroit Youth Foundation, received \$100,000 in the DHS budget. The Youthville Detroit program helps develop youth by enhancing emotional, social, physical, mental and academic well-being through a broad range of programming and activities. Senator Hunter has been a strong advocate for the Detroit Youth Foundation, and helped secure this funding to continue their efforts.

During the DHS budget process, Senator Hunter also supported funding for the Relative Guardianship Assistance Act to provide assistance for family members caring for displaced children and alleviate some of the financial challenges of providing for a child in unexpected circumstances. Senator Hunter helped pass the legislation proposing the new act, Senate Bill 170, which has also been passed by the House and now heads to Governor Granholm for her signature.

Long-Awaited Increase in Local Revenue Sharing Will Strengthen Vital Public Services

Senator Hunter and his Senate colleagues secured a 2% increase in local revenue sharing with the passage of the 2008-2009 General Government budget. This increase comes after several years of cuts, and will provide support for local police, firefighters, water systems, road maintenance, and other important services that keep our families and communities safe.

Since 2001, cuts of approximately

\$3 billion to revenue sharing have resulted in 4,000 fewer police and firefighters in Michigan. At a time when public safety professionals are expected to provide consistent quality of service and safety, any further cuts to their budgets would be devastating to the communities they serve. Senator Hunter is pleased that an increase in public safety funding will be provided through local revenue sharing, which will help prevent understaffing, diminish crime and

decrease the amount of time citizens have to wait for emergency assistance.

With a 2% increase in local revenue sharing, Dearborn Heights will receive an increase of \$36,516, Inkster will get an additional \$45,918 and the City of Detroit will receive around \$4.18 million more than they received last year. This money will go directly to the communities where you live to support the vital services you rely on every day.



State Senator
Tupac A. Hunter

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Community Health Budget Maintains Local Services, Funds Pilot Mental Health Courts

The Department of Community Health (DCH) is one of the largest departments in state government, with the daunting responsibility of setting health policy and managing the state’s publicly-funded health service systems. About two million Michigan residents will receive services this year that are provided with total or partial support from DCH.

An approved \$485 million increase in the DCH budget (including state and federal funds and interdepartmental grants) will allow them to maintain

and increase funding to vital community health programs.

Medicaid for individuals age 19 to 20 years old has been frequently in question, but their coverage will remain in place under the 2008-09 budget. The Healthy Michigan Fund will be maintained at current levels, as will Medicaid payments to provider groups. The Healthy Michigan Fund provides access to family planning services, maternal and child health care, cancer screening and other preventive health care.

The DCH budget also includes \$1,126,900 in funding for pilot Mental Health Courts, which will lessen case loads on criminal courts and our corrections system as well as protect the rights and well-being of the mentally ill. Mental Health Courts pilot programs also received \$550,000 from the Judiciary budget.

These allocations send a strong message that keeping our children, our families, and all Michigan residents healthy and safe is of utmost importance.

E-News Sign-up



To receive my weekly e-newsletter, please visit my website:

www.senate.mi.gov/hunter/join.html

You may also check out my latest activities in Lansing and in the district by visiting my website at www.senate.mi.gov/hunter.



Talk Time With Tupac

Senator Tupac A. Hunter has scheduled three coffee hours to give district constituents an opportunity to personally share their ideas and concerns.

Detroit: Mary’s Grill
20804 Plymouth Road
All coffee hours are held on the 1st Friday of the month from 10-11 AM.

Inkster: McDonald’s
27125 Cherry Hill Road
All coffee hours are held on the 2nd Friday of the month from 10-11 AM.

Dearborn Heights: McDonald’s
6412 North Telegraph Road
All coffee hours are held on the 3rd Friday of the month from 10-11 AM.

You are invited to attend whichever coffee hours work best for your schedule. If you are interested in joining me, please call my office toll-free at 866-262-7305 in order to confirm your attendance. Please be sure to leave a message if you call after hours.

Publications and Information Packets Available

Please check the appropriate box(es) below, fill in your name and address in the space provided and return this entire coupon to: **State Senator Tupac A. Hunter • P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing, MI • 48909-7536** or you may e-mail your request to SenTAHunter@senate.michigan.gov.

☐ **State of Michigan Map**

☐ **Senior Citizen Information Packet**

☐ **Consumer Protection Resource Guide**
Everything you need to know about consumer rights and Michigan law: how to protect yourself from consumer fraud and how to take legal action.

☐ **A Citizen’s Guide to State Government**
Information about the state legislature and elected public officials at state and federal levels of government.

☐ **Foreclosure Prevention Packet**

☐ **Insurance Information Packet**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____, MI ZIP _____ Phone _____ - _____ E-Mail _____